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**OFFICE  
OF THE  
COLONIZATION  
SOCIETY**



## Office of the Colonization Society,

WASHINGTON, APRIL 27, 1848.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR:

The Executive Committee of the American Colonization Society earnestly invite your attention to its benevolent enterprise, and trust that you will bring its merits and its wants to the consideration of the people of your charge. There is every thing to encourage Christian efforts for the benefit of Africa. The concurrence of many great events, tending to open that country to the influences of civilization and Christianity, and to render the colonies of Liberia, if duly encouraged, most powerful means of suppressing the slave-trade and bringing the inhabitants of that afflicted quarter of the earth into the family of enlightened nations, urges the disciples of Christ, of every name, to co-operate with the movements of Providence, and strengthen her returning and regenerated children in building up and extending on her shores a republican and religious commonwealth. Such a commonwealth, the Plymouth of Africa, is already founded; its settlements along nearly three hundred miles of coast, reclaimed through their influence from the horrors of the slave-trade, smile with promise; their schools, churches, courts, and legislature are evidences of a new social order and moral state, and it is only necessary to multiply and enlarge them to diffuse the most precious light and blessings to a large portion of the human family, hitherto destitute, and exposed to cruel wrongs and intolerable calamities. It is now of vital consequence to increase the numbers and enlarge the territories of Liberia, so as to place beyond danger the ultimate ascendancy upon that coast of the principles of free government and the Christian faith. No other nation has advantages equal to ours for the attainment of these great objects. It is easy for the churches of this land to render the settlements of Liberia, not only attractive asylums for all such of her descendants, from the United States, as may desire to share in their own government, and to secure for themselves and their posterity an independent national existence in circumstances most favorable for its growth and prosperity, but also seminaries, in which, thousands of missionaries may be educated, and from which they may go forth for the conversion of all Africa to the knowledge and worship of the true God. The Committee, then, would respectfully call upon you, sir, and upon your people, to assist in this work of unsurpassed benevolence; and as it was deemed essential, at the annual meeting of the society, to raise for its operations the present year, at least forty thousand dollars, they pray you, either immediately, on the fourth of July, or on some Sabbath near that day, to submit the subject to your congregation and solicit their contributions to the society.

We beg leave to accompany this letter with a brief form of a constitution for an auxiliary society, in the hope that such an association may be immediately organized in your community, and continue permanently to co-operate in this enterprise. When we consider how much has been done, and at how small expense, (the whole amount contributed by individuals, during the twenty-five years since the origin of the society, to the enterprise, having but little exceeded \$700,000,) that many prosperous settlements of a free and Christian people now adorn a line of coast for ages abandoned to ignorance, superstition, and crime; that the worship of the true God is here celebrated, and the way prepared for the victories of his word among countless barbarians, what Christian can hesitate to aid the work?

### *A word of specific objects for which funds are demanded.*

1. First, to secure the entire line of the African coast from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas, about three hundred miles. A more extended line of coast would be desirable, but this is indispensable, as difficulties have already arisen within these limits between the Colonial Government and English traders; and as some twenty tracts have already been purchased by the society on this line, establishments of other nations upon it, must occasion perpetual jealousies and disturbances. It is believed this object can be effected at an expense not exceeding \$15,000 or \$20,000.

2. To open a road to the camwood regions of the interior, thus vastly increasing the commerce and resources of the colony, and extending its influence among the native tribes. This may be effected at a cost of from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

3. To aid emigration. An expedition is to sail immediately from New Orleans with sixty-nine liberated slaves of the estate of the late Mrs. Read of Mississippi, the remainder (there being one hundred and thirty in all,) awaiting another expedition.



Eighteen slaves in Flemingsburg, Kentucky, to whom freedom was bequeathed by their late master, are expected, should means be secured, to accompany this expedition. They are liable to be sold if not sent before the close of the year.

In Richmond county, Va., are twelve slaves, to whom freedom has been left on condition of their emigration to Liberia within a certain time. They have earned a part of the money necessary to defray their expenses, and need assistance to enable them, to complete their redemption, in due time.

An aged gentleman in Tennessee desires to send sixty-eight slaves to the colony, worth probably in the market from twenty to thirty thousand dollars.

A minister of the Gospel in Virginia wishes to liberate nine slaves, but feels unable to defray the expenses of their emigration to Liberia, where they have friends, and to which they greatly desire to go.

A wealthy gentleman in South Carolina has long been preparing his slaves for freedom in the colony, and with much success, and hopes to send them thither the present year. Many in Tennessee and Virginia, entertain similar sentiments to his, and many free persons of color in those States and elsewhere desire to emigrate. Among the latter number is an intelligent Baptist preacher in western New York, who only waits for means to remove with a company of his friends.

For the means of effecting these objects we must place reliance upon the benevolence and exertions of individuals. Those who may be denied the happiness of giving money, may enjoy that of securing donations from others entrusted by Providence with wealth. Influence, as well as knowledge, is power. The wise exertion of such influence by individuals in uniting the opinions and charities of christians for the promotion of great and good designs, is a mighty means of beneficence in the Kingdom of Providence. Should each one who may peruse this letter resolve to secure one hundred, fifty, or even twenty dollars for the objects above specified, their accomplishment would, with the blessing of Heaven, be rendered certain, and to the African race the benefit would be incalculable.

In the view of the Committee, every possible reason exists for special and liberal exertions on the part of all the friends of Africa.

I remain, Reverend and dear sir, with the greatest respect, your friend and servant.

R. R. GURLEY, *Secretary.*

N. B. Every clergyman who receives this letter is respectfully requested, should he approve of the object, to read it to his congregation, and solicit in its behalf, their contributions.

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#### FORM OF A CONSTITUTION.

1st. This society shall be called the \_\_\_\_\_ Society, and shall be auxiliary to the American Colonization Society.

2d. The payment annually, by an individual, of any amount, shall constitute membership of this society; and those who pay one dollar annually, to constitute themselves members of the American Society, (or of a State society should such exist,) or thirty dollars at one time to constitute themselves life members of said society, shall become by such payment members, or life members of this society.

3d. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, to be elected annually, and to continue in office till their successors are appointed. Besides performing the duties implied in these offices, they shall constitute a Board of Managers, to direct the affairs of the Society.

4th. The officers of the Society shall annually appoint collectors, assigning to them their respective districts; and it shall be the duty of said collectors, within one month, or as soon as practicable, after the annual meeting of the Society, to solicit and receive donations within their districts, and pay over the amount to the treasurer of the Society.

5th. The funds of the Society, after defraying its expenses, shall be paid over to the treasurer of the American Society, to be expended in colonizing upon the coast of Africa, free persons of color, with their own consent.

PLEASE KEEP THIS "MICRO-CHAMBER" PAPER WITH THE  
DOCUMENT. IT HAS A PRESERVATION FUNCTION.



## FORM OF A MEMORIAL TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled:*

We the undersigned, citizens of \_\_\_\_\_, respectfully represent: That, being deeply impressed with the value and magnitude of the interests, both to American commerce and to justice and humanity, involved in the suppression of the African slave-trade, to be secured through the enlargement and stability of the colonies of Liberia, as well as the immense advantages opening through these settlements to a numerous and dependent class of our population, and remotely to a large portion of the African race; they pray Congress to adopt such efficient measures for the benefit of these colonies as it may deem consistent with its constitutional powers and duty.

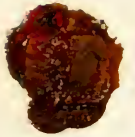
§ It is respectfully requested that the friends of the cause will transmit this, or some similar memorial, early to the next Congress.

NOTE.—The African Repository, of 32 pages, the monthly publication of the Society, is supplied to subscribers at \$1 50 per annum if paid for in advance, or for \$2 if not paid for until after the expiration of six months.

Letters on the general interests of the Society or for the Repository, to be addressed to R. R. Gurley, Secretary. Those relating to funds and enclosing remittances, to Wm. McLain, Treasurer.



Rev Samuel N Lathrop  
Boston



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